

BEES and HONEY

Honey bees were introduced to North America during the 1600's and became widely spread by the 1800's. Washington fruit crops that depend upon honey bee pollination include apples, apricots, blackberries, blueberries, cantaloupes, cherries, cranberries, pears, raspberries, strawberries and watermelons. Vegetables produced in the state of Washington that rely on honey bee pollination consist of asparagus, brussels sprouts, broccoli, cabbage, carrots, clover, cucumbers, onions, radishes, squash, and turnips.

Honey producing colonies for human consumption increased from 50,000 colonies in 2002 to 58,000 colonies in 2003. Total pollination colonies are not estimated, and colonies were not counted if honey was not harvested for human use. Honey production in Washington State for 2003 totaled 3.2 million pounds, up 27% from the previous year. Honey yields per colony averaged 56 pounds, up 5 pounds from 2002. The price of honey rose to \$1.52 per pound, compared to last year's price of \$1.27 per pound. December 15, 2003 honey stocks held by producers were 942,000 pounds, up 68 percent from the previous year.

Bees and Honey: Production, Price, & Value, Washington, 1994-2003, 1/ 4/

Year	Honey Producing Colonies	Stocks December 15 2/	Honey			
			Production		Value of Production	
			Yield Per Colony	Total	Price Per Pound 3/	Total
	Thousands	1,000 Lbs.	Lbs.	1,000 Lbs.	Cents	\$1,000
1994	60	1,265	62	3,720	54	2,009
1995	60	637	59	3,540	57	2,018
1996	60	1,079	58	3,480	90	3,132
1997	60	1,498	52	3,120	76	2,371
1998	58	1,361	51	2,958	64	1,893
1999	52	1,170	50	2,600	60	1,560
2000	52	1,151	54	2,808	58	1,629
2001 4/	48	1,048	52	2,496	72	1,797
2002 4/	50	561	51	2,550	127	3,239
2003	58	942	56	3,248	152	4,937

1/ For producers with five or more colonies. Colonies which produced honey in more than one State were counted in each State.

2/ Stocks held by producers.

3/ Prices weighted by sales.

4/ Revised.